

Great Bay Siltation Commission Meeting

NH Department of Environmental Services/Coastal Program
Pease Field Office, Portsmouth, NH
December 1, 2008, 9:00 AM

Members: Rep. Judith Spang, Commission Chair, Durham
Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program
Ellen Griffin Saas, Great Bay Marine
Ray Konisky, The Nature Conservancy
Phil Trowbridge, New Hampshire Estuaries Project
Justin Richardson, Newington Conservation Commission
Tracy Shattuck, Pease Development Authority – Division of Ports & Harbors
Larry Ward, University of New Hampshire
Alison Watts, Newfields Conservation Commission

Other Attendees: Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services (Guest Speaker)
Christian Williams, NH Coastal Program

Summary:

Chairperson Spang presented Commission members with a draft Interim Report. She requested that members review and provide comments on the draft Report as soon as possible.

Steve Couture of the NH Department of Environmental Services Rivers Management and Protection Program then gave a presentation entitled “River Dynamics and Erosion.” Mr. Couture’s presentation focused on the dynamic nature of river systems and the processes by which rivers attempt to balance water flow and sediment transport. He discussed erosion and stressed that it is a natural process within a river system that can be accelerated by human activities or natural causes. He also discussed geomorphic assessment techniques to restore and maintain healthy river conditions, and fluvial erosion hazard planning. Following the presentation, Mr. Couture fielded questions from Commission members.

Christian Williams of the New Hampshire Coastal Program then gave a presentation entitled “Dredging and Dredge Material Management in New Hampshire.” Mr. Williams’ presentation focused primarily on navigational dredging within New Hampshire’s tidal waters. He described the number and frequency of federal, state and private dredging projects, details of the dredging process, including the roles of state and federal regulatory agencies, and the issues facing tidal dredging projects in New Hampshire, including disposal options, dredge windows, the presence of eelgrass, and funding requirements. Following the presentation, Mr. Williams fielded questions from Commission members.

Both presentations will be made available on the Commission’s web page at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/ocean_policy/gb_commission.htm.

The next Commission meeting was scheduled for **Monday, January 26, 2009 at 1:00 PM at the DES-Coastal Program Pease Field Office in Portsmouth.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.